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(Original Signature of Member)

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES.

Authorizing and directing the Speaker to appoint a bipartisan task force to investigate the circumstances and cause of the decision to place professional staff of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct on indefinite administrative leave, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. WATERS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Authorizing and directing the Speaker to appoint a bipartisan task force to investigate the circumstances and cause of the decision to place professional staff of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct on indefinite administrative leave, and for other purposes.

Whereas the Constitution of the United States authorizes the House of Representatives to “determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behavior, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member”;

Whereas in 1968, in compliance with this authority and to uphold its integrity and ensure that Members act in a

manner that reflects credit on the House of Representatives, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct was established;

Whereas the ethics procedures in effect during the 111th Congress were enacted in 1997 in a bipartisan manner by an overwhelming vote of the House of Representatives upon the bipartisan recommendation of the ten member Ethics Reform Task Force, which conducted a thorough and lengthy review of the entire ethics process;

Whereas, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct adopted rules for the 111th Congress;

Whereas rule 6(a) of the Rules of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct states “the staff is to be assembled and retained as professional, nonpartisan staff”;

Whereas rule 6(c) of the Rules of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct states “the staff as a whole and each individual member of the staff shall perform all official duties in a nonpartisan manner”;

Whereas rule 6(f) of the Rules of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct states “All staff members shall be appointed by an affirmative vote of the majority of the members of the Committee. Such a vote shall occur at the first meeting of the membership of the Committee during each Congress and as necessary during the Congress”;

Whereas, on November 19, 2010 two members of the professional staff of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct were placed on indefinite administrative leave;

Whereas, on November 19, 2010 the Committee on Standards and Official Conduct canceled and has not resched-

uled the adjudicatory hearing for a Member of Congress,
previously scheduled for November 29, 2010;

Whereas all of these actions have subjected the committee to
public ridicule and weakened the ability of the committee
to properly conduct its investigative duties, all of which
has brought discredit to the House; now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) the Speaker shall appoint a bipartisan task
3 force with equal representation of the majority and
4 minority parties to investigate the circumstances and
5 cause of the decision to place professional staff of
6 the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct on
7 indefinite administrative leave and to make rec-
8 ommendations to restore public confidence in the
9 ethics process, including disciplinary measures for
10 both staff and Members where needed; and

11 (2) the task force report its findings and rec-
12 ommendations to the House of Representatives dur-
13 ing the second session of this Congress.